

Claims

- [c1] 1. An above knee shrinker for applying therapeutic compression to a wearer's leg residual limb, said above knee shrinker comprising:
- a waist belt dimensioned for snugly receiving the waist of the wearer; and
 - a tubular fabric receptacle dimensioned and configured to be worn on the residual limb and apply a compressive force to the residual limb when the shrinker is donned, said receptacle presenting top and bottom ends and being open adjacent each of the ends so that the residual limb can be inserted into the receptacle adjacent the top end,
 - said receptacle being coupled to the waist belt adjacent the top end so that snug securement of the waist belt about the wearer's waist restricts vertical displacement of the receptacle along the residual limb when the shrinker is donned,
 - said receptacle being dimensioned so as to be longer than the residual limb, thereby permitting the receptacle to be doubled over the residual limb when the shrinker is donned,
 - said receptacle including a U-shaped edge projecting

from the top end so as to present a U-shaped perineal opening, with said perineal opening being adjacent the torso end of the residual limb when the shrinker is donned,

said U-shaped edge including a pair of spaced apart upright sections extending from the top end and a bottom section that is spaced from the top end and interconnects the upright sections.

- [c2] 2.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1, said top end and said U-shaped edge cooperatively defining a residual limb opening through which the residual limb is inserted when the shrinker is donned, said perineal opening forming part of the residual limb opening.
- [c3] 3.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1, each of said upright sections being generally linear and when the shrinker is donned.
- [c4] 4.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 3, said bottom section having an arcuate shape.
- [c5] 5.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1; and a constricting element operable to constrict the receptacle generally adjacent to the distal end of the residual limb when the shrinker is donned.

- [c6] 6.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 5,
said constricting element including a ring received over
the receptacle,
said ring being adapted to engage and bear against the
distal end of the residual limb when the shrinker is
donned.
- [c7] 7.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1,
said receptacle being predominantly formed of multi-
directional stretchable material.
- [c8] 8.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1,
said receptacle being knitted at least principally of core-
spun yarn.
- [c9] 9.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 8,
said core-spun yarn comprising a spandex core and a
fiber sheathing.
- [c10] 10.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 9,
said core-spun yarn comprising about 95% fiber sheath-
ing and 5% spandex.
- [c11] 11.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 8,
said receptacle including a plurality of laid in elastic.
- [c12] 12.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 11,
each of said threads being laid into at least every fourth

course of the knitted corespun yarn.

- [c13] 13.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 12,
each of said elastic including spandex.
- [c14] 14.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1,
said receptacle including a belt-receiving channel adjacent the top end,
said channel being dimensioned to removably receive the waist belt,
said waist belt presenting two separate belt ends, and
including an adjustable self-fastening mechanism.
- [c15] 15.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 14,
said adjustable self-fastening mechanism comprising
strips of hook and loop fastening material adjacent the belt ends.
- [c16] 16.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1,
said receptacle being formed by a continuous circular rib-knit construction so as to be seamless.
- [c17] 17.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1,
said receptacle being stitched of a one-by-one rib stitch knitting pattern.
- [c18] 18.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1,
said receptacle being knitted in connected loops of sub-

stantially uniform pattern and number per square inch throughout the receptacle, whereby the shrinker exhibits generally uniform compression against the residual limb.

- [c19] 19.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1, said receptacle being formed of a dyeable fabric material.
- [c20] 20.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1, said receptacle being formed of a latex-free material.
- [c21] 21.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 1, said receptacle being formed of an anti-fraying material.
- [c22] 22.An above knee shrinker for applying therapeutic compression to a wearer's leg residual limb, said above knee shrinker comprising:
a waist belt dimensioned for snugly receiving the waist of the wearer when the shrinker is donned; and
a tubular fabric receptacle dimensioned and configured to be worn on the residual limb and apply a compressive force to the residual limb when the shrinker is donned, said receptacle presenting top and bottom ends and being open adjacent each of the ends so that the residual limb can be inserted into the receptacle adjacent the top end,
said receptacle being coupled to the waist belt adjacent

the top end so that snug securement of the waist belt about the wearer's waist restricts vertical displacement of the receptacle along the residual limb when the shrinker is donned,
said receptacle being dimensioned so as to be longer than the residual limb, thereby permitting the receptacle to be doubled over the residual limb when the shrinker is donned,
said receptacle being knitted at least principally of core-spun yarn,
said receptacle including laid in elastic.

- [c23] 23.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22,
said elastic being laid into at least every fourth course.
- [c24] 24.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22,
said core-spun yarn comprising a spandex core and a fiber sheathing.
- [c25] 25.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22,
said plurality of laid in elastic comprising spandex.
- [c26] 26.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22,
said receptacle being predominantly formed of multi-directional stretchable material.
- [c27] 27.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22; and
a constricting element operable to constrict the recepta-

cle generally adjacent to the distal end of the residual limb when the shrinker is donned.

[c28] 28.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 27,
said constricting element including a ring received over
the receptacle,
said ring being adapted to engage and bear against the
distal end of the residual limb when the shrinker is
donned.

[c29] 29.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22,
said receptacle including a belt receiving channel adja-
cent the top end,
said channel being dimensioned to snugly receive the
waist belt,
said waist belt being moveably coupled to said recepta-
cle and presenting two separate belt ends.

[c30] 30.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22,
said waist belt including an adjustable self-fastening
mechanism.

[c31] 31.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 30,
said adjustable self-fastening mechanism comprising
strips of hook and loop fastening material adjacent the
belt ends.

[c32] 32.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22,

said receptacle being formed by a continuous circular rib-knit construction so as to be seamless.

[c33] 33.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22,
said receptacle being knitted in a one-by-one rib stitch
knitting pattern.

[c34] 34.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22,
said receptacle being knitted in connected loops of sub-
stantially uniform pattern and number per square inch
throughout the receptacle, whereby the shrinker exhibits
generally uniform compression against the residual limb.

[c35] 35.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22,
said material being formed of a dyeable fabric material.

[c36] 36.The above knee shrinker as claimed in claim 22,
said receptacle being latex-free.